REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

According to the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended. New claim 7 has been added. Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are pending and under consideration.

No new matter is being presented, and approval of the amended claim is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-3 AND 5-6 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY GAI ET AL. (U.S. PATENT NO. 6,167,445) IN VIEW OF PRAGER (U.S. PATENT NO. 5,838,918)

The rejections of claims 1-3 and 5-6 are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Applicants' prior arguments set forth in the Amendment filed August 23, 2006 are incorporated herein by reference.

On page 3 of the final Action, the Examiner states that Gai et al. (hereinafter "Gai") fails to disclose more than one administrator being able to perform separate functions and, thus, in the Response to Arguments on page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner contends that Prager discloses the roles of a central administrator who is responsible for a central configuration database and template models while the local administrator works with templates to create particular records and attributes for a subset of subscribing systems.

Applicants agree with the Examiner's determination that Gai fails to disclose more than one administrator able to perform separate functions.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of Prager. Prager relates to a method executed by a computer to increase the ease and efficiency of the configuration management task in large, complex networks of heterogeneous computer systems. (Prager, Abstract). Specifically, in Prager object-oriented programming technology is used to define a class of template objects. The template objects provide the interface through which a system administrator maintains configuration databases and establishes a consistent and coherent set of configuration management policies or operating guidelines. (Prager, col. 5, lines 8-19).

In Prager, each local administrator is located at a corresponding single component, to which the local administrator accesses. Each component has a subscriber database, which stores a template propagated from a central configuration database where a system administrator is located.

Accordingly, even if Gai is combined with Prager, such a combination still does not teach or suggest retrieval and response function unit selecting an application rule from the application rule storing unit in accordance with an attribute of a corresponding destination communication entity, reading from the setting template storing unit a setting template having a setting template name specified by the selected application rule, and distributing the read setting template to the corresponding destination communication entity, as recited in independent claim 1.

That is, according to embodiments of the present invention, a first administrator and a second administrator should be located at the communication setting management system, and the first administrator and the second administrator operate the setting template entry/edit unit and the application rule entry/edit unit respectively.

In contrast, Gai only utilizes network administrators of the same level (as the Examiner suggests), while Prager discloses one system administrator 305 and respective users 300 who access respective subscriber databases.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Prager and Gai et al. fail to teach or suggest the features of amended independent claim 1, described above. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 depend from claim 1 and inherit its patentable recitations. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 also patentably distinguish over the cited art.

NEW INDEPENDENT CLAIM 7

New independent claim 7 recites:

> entering or editing, by a first administrator, a setting template that collects contents to be set for the plurality of communication entities connected to the network, with reference to information on a concrete method of setting the communication entities;
>
> storing each setting template entered or edited by the entering or editing as operated by the first administrator;
>
> entering or editing, by a second administrator, application rules prescribing rules corresponding to the setting template, which is to be applied to a communication having a specific attribute;
>
> storing each application rule entered or edited by the entering or editing; and
>
> selecting an application rule from the storing each application rule in accordance with an attribute of a corresponding destination communication entity, reading from the storing each setting template a setting template having a setting template name specified by the selected application rule, and distributing the read setting template to the corresponding destination communication entity.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 7 patentably distinguishes over the prior art for at least the reasons provided above for independent claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Further, all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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